



Director of  
Central  
Intelligence

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# National Intelligence Daily (Cable)

14 October 1982

DIA review  
completed.

State Dept. review  
completed

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CPAS NIDC 82-240C

14 October 1982

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**Page Denied**

25X1

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Contents

Poland: *Scattered Unrest* . . . . . 1

PLO-Jordan: *Talks End* . . . . . 2 25X1



25X6



Lebanon: *Interfactional Fighting* . . . . . 6



Netherlands: *Prime Minister Bowing Out* . . . . . 7

El Salvador: *Fighting Continues* . . . . . 8 25X1

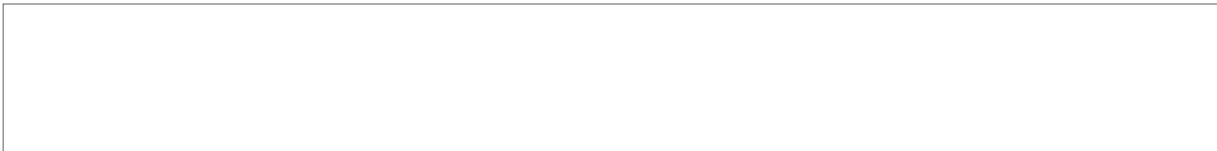
France-China: *Visit by French Communist Chief* . . . . . 8

India-Bangladesh: *Compromise on Water Sharing* . . . . . 9

Sudan: *Resistance to IMF Conditions* . . . . . 9

25X1

South Africa: *Oil and Gas Discovery* . . . . . 10



25X1



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25X1

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25X1

POLAND: Scattered Unrest

*The situation in Gdansk eased yesterday, but new strike activity and street demonstrations flared in several other cities.* [redacted]

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[redacted] there was only limited strike activity in Gdansk and no serious clashes between demonstrators and riot police. [redacted]

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Reports from the US Embassy in Warsaw and press stories indicate that there were small-scale work stoppages in at least three other cities in the past three days. Clashes with police occurred in Krakow yesterday as workers in the industrial suburb of Nowa Huta and townspeople marched to the center of the city. [redacted]

In the southwestern city of Wroclaw, various job actions and street demonstrations took place. [redacted]

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Comment: The threat of severe punishments accompanying the militarization of Gdansk shipyards appears to have at least temporarily put a brake on the protests there. The spread of unrest to other cities may have partly been a response to the beginning of the 10 month of martial law. The government probably will continue to apply force wherever necessary to quell future disturbances. [redacted]

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PLO-JORDAN: Talks End

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*PLO Chief Arafat and King Hussein apparently moved toward greater cooperation in their four days of talks in Amman.* [ ]

Press reports say they agreed to expand the duties of the PLO-Jordanian joint committee, which supervises the flow of Arab aid funds to the West Bank and Gaza. It now will serve as a forum for coordinating all PLO and Jordanian efforts to regain the occupied territories and to discuss various types of linkage or federation. [ ]

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Arafat labeled the talks, which centered on the US and Fez peace plans and the King's proposal for a federation between Jordan and the West Bank and Gaza, as "very successful." He also said in a press conference on Tuesday that the US initiative has some "positive elements." [ ]

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Comment: Arafat evidently did not rule out the possibility of agreeing to some form of political affiliation with Jordan that would allow Hussein to participate in talks on the US and Fez plans with at least tacit PLO approval. The tenor of Arafat's remarks indicates that the two leaders will hold additional meetings to map a joint strategy on the negotiations. [ ]

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25X1

LEBANON: Interfactional Fighting

After several days of sporadic violence in the Israeli-occupied mountain region southeast of Beirut, military exchanges between the militias of the Christian Phalange Party and the Druze-dominated Progressive Socialist Party flared again yesterday. The area of the violence last week has widened to include several additional villages, and the intense fighting has touched off a wave of kidnappings on both sides. Prime Minister Wazzan, reacting to appeals from local political leaders, has indicated that efforts are under way to have the Lebanese Army assume security responsibilities in the area.

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Comment: Lebanese authorities are reluctant to deploy the Army in the region as long as Israeli forces are present, arguing that Israel is responsible for maintaining order. The government also may not yet be ready to test the fragile authority of the Army against the superior Phalange militia force. The local population believes the Israelis instigated the clashes in order to give them an excuse to stay in Lebanon.

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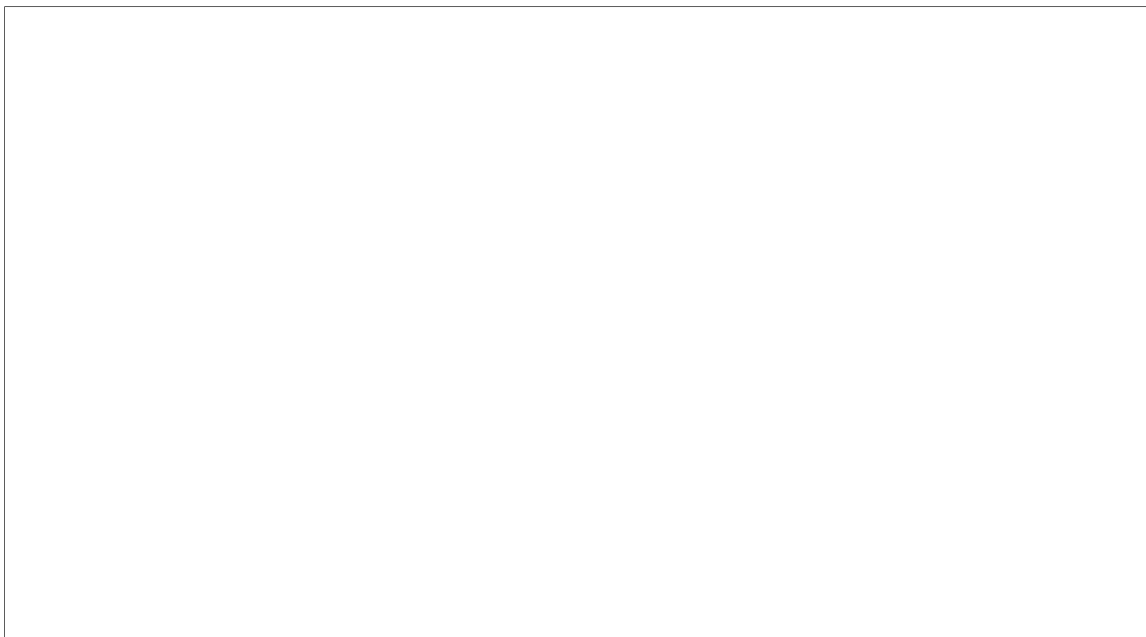
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NETHERLANDS: Prime Minister Bowing Out

//Caretaker Prime Minister Van Agt, citing personal reasons, told a press conference yesterday he would not accept a ministerial position in the next government. Van Agt's Christian Democrats have chosen parliamentary floor leader Lubbers, the party's representative in coalition negotiations for a new government, as their candidate for Prime Minister.// [redacted]

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Comment: //Van Agt's announcement is a surprise. He is the country's most prominent politician, led his party in a successful election campaign in September, and was on the verge of obtaining the center-right coalition with the Liberals that he wanted. Negotiations with the Liberals have been making progress, and the change of Christian Democratic leaders is unlikely to affect them seriously. Although Lubbers supports the NATO decision on INF deployment, he may not consider himself bound by van Agt's publicly expressed view that a positive decision on deployment should be reached by December of next year.// [redacted]

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EL SALVADOR: Fighting Continues

The US defense attache in San Salvador reports that guerrillas have seized three towns in northern Morazan Department, including Perquin, and remain in control of Las Vueltas in Chalatenango Department.

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Comment: The insurgents thus far have selected easy targets, enabling them to score quick victories. Government units are likely to begin major counterattacks soon, but new insurgent activity and sabotage operations elsewhere may keep them off balance.

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FRANCE-CHINA: Visit by French Communist Chief

The arrival today in China of French Communist Party leader Marchais caps Beijing's yearlong effort to improve party-to-party ties. Marchais and his associates recently have underscored an interest in better relations by commenting favorably on China's party congress and by opportunistically urging the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea. Communist media in France also have highlighted the preliminary Sino-Soviet talks now under way in Beijing.

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Comment: The Chinese are likely to reestablish formal party ties during the visit--the first such action with a pro-Soviet Communist party since the early 1960s. Beijing probably hopes relations with the French party will help expand access to other Soviet-backed parties in Western Europe, where China has become more politically active in the last year. Marchais evidently hopes the visit will help strengthen his grip on party affairs and promote his party as a potential intermediary between the Chinese and the Soviets.

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INDIA-BANGLADESH: Compromise on Water Sharing

Prime Minister Gandhi, in a meeting last week with visiting Chief Martial Law Administrator Ershad, agreed to an 18-month extension of the Ganges water-sharing agreement with only minor changes. Ershad, in return, agreed to pre-feasibility studies of India's plan to link the Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers with a canal. There also will be studies of Bangladesh's counterproposal to build storage reservoirs on tributaries of the Ganges in Nepal. [REDACTED]

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Comment: Ershad probably gained more than he expected, particularly in securing an extension of the water-sharing agreement, but the issues in that dispute have only been postponed. He may have limited his room for future maneuvering by agreeing to study India's plan for a link canal and by allowing India to deal separately with Nepal on Bangladesh's reservoir scheme. [REDACTED]

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SUDAN: Resistance to IMF Conditions

First Vice President Tayyib says he believes IMF demands for another devaluation of the Sudanese pound and for additional cuts in subsidies of basic consumer goods would lead to serious riots and the end of President Nimeiri's regime. Although Sudan's Finance Minister told US officials he approved of devaluation, Tayyib said he will try to persuade Nimeiri to reject it, and he expressed displeasure over US support for the IMF demands. [REDACTED]

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Comment: The IMF team that left Khartoum on Sunday apparently believed it had resolved all major issues except for the size of the government deficit. The cabinet, however, probably will not accept the IMF's terms. Without an IMF agreement, efforts to reschedule foreign debts could collapse. [REDACTED]

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SOUTH AFRICA: Oil and Gas Discovery

South Africa has made its first major discovery of oil and gas. A test well about 240 kilometers off the southern coast reportedly is producing good-quality light crude oil. Pretoria plans further drilling in the area, but it will be several years before commercial production, if warranted, can begin.

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Comment: //Development of domestic production is not urgently needed because South Africa has a massive strategic stockpile of oil, has well-advanced synthetic fuel and nuclear energy programs, and currently is able to acquire more petroleum than it can use on the open market. Nevertheless, Pretoria--which already has spent \$350 million on oil exploration--probably will proceed with development of offshore oil as part of its overall effort to achieve energy self-sufficiency. If oil reserves prove to be sizable, they will reduce South Africa's longer term reliance on costly coal liquefaction for protection from a possible embargo.//

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